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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 21/32/95
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UA 156/95 — **Fear of Torture / Arbitrary arrest** — **3 July 1995**

EAST TIMOR

Remigio Levi da Costa Tilman, 21
Pedro Nunes Sabalae, 39

Amnesty International fears that Remigio Levi da Costa Tilman and Pedro Nunes Sabalae may be tortured in military custody.

The two East Timorese men were arrested at 4am on 30 June 1995 in the capital of East Timor, Dili, apparently on suspicion of being involved in pro-independence activities. Details of the arrests are unclear but it is believed that they are being held in the headquarters of the military intelligence unit (*Satuan Tugas Intelijen - SGI*) of the Sub-Regional Military Command for East Timor (*KOREM 164/Wira Dharma*), in the Colmera district of Dili. Amnesty International's fear for their safety is heightened by the frequent reports it receives about torture of prisoners in SGI detention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Torture of suspected pro-independence activists in East Timor is systematic. Recent reports of torture in SGI detention include the cases of Hendrique Belmiro da Costa and Jose Antonio Belo. Hendrique Belmiro da Costa is one of 27 facing trial for their alleged role in demonstrations in November 1994. He was arrested on 4 December by SGI officers and held at SGI until 3 February during which time he was subjected to torture, including electric shocks. As a result of the beatings he received, he required seven stitches to a wound on his head. Jose Antonio Belo, arrested for participating in a pro-independence demonstration on 9 January 1995, was held at SGI until 13 January during which time he was beaten - reportedly to the point of losing consciousness - tied up, hung upside down overnight, subjected to electric shocks and denied food.

The arrest of Remigio Levi da Costa Tilman and Pedro Nunes Sabalae is consistent with a pattern of short-term and arbitrary detention of real or alleged opponents to Indonesian rule of East Timor. Thousands of East Timorese have been held without charge or trial for periods ranging from a few days to several months, since late 1991. Many have been denied access to their relatives and lawyers and some are known to have been ill-treated and tortured. Others have been tried and sentenced to prison terms for their peaceful activities.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:
- urging the authorities to clarify the whereabouts of Remigio Levi da Costa Tilman and Pedro Nunes Sabalae;
- seeking assurances that they are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- calling on the authorities to allow the two men access to the International Committee of the Red Cross, lawyers and their families;
- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released, unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence under existing laws.

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APPEALS TO

COMMANDER RESORT MILITARY COMMAND (KOREM) 164/WIRADHARMA
(covers East Timor)
Col. Mahidin Simbolon
Markas KOREM 164/Wiradharma
Dili, East Timor (Indonesia)
Faxes: +62 390 21 624
Telegrams: Panglima Korem Dili, East Timor
Salutation: Dear Col. Mahidin Simbolon

COPIES TO

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Lt. Gen. (ret.) Ali Said
Ketua, Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia (KOMNAS HAM)
Departemen Kehakiman RI
Directorat Jenderal Pemasyarakatan
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Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia
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and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 August 1995.